

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the office action dated October 11, 2006, claims 14-21 were rejected. In response, claims 14-17 were amended. Claims 22-24 were added. Applicant maintains that no new matter has been added.

I. 112 Rejection

Claims 14-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claim 14 has been amended to recite "A drill bit comprising a shaft having a proximal end with a first opening, and a distal end with a beveled cutting surface and a second opening, wherein the beveled cutting surface comprises a slot; a lumen inside the shaft that extends between first and second openings." Claim 14 does not recite any third openings and the language of the amended claim 14 does not include any new matter. Specifically, support for beveled cutting surface comprises a slot can be found in paragraphs 0002, 0010, 0012, 0014, 0016, 0019, 0021, 0036, 0039, 0043, and figures 1, 2, 3a and 3b. Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejection

Claims 14-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kwan (US 6,135,769). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

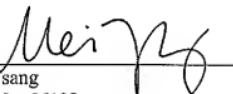
Kwan does indeed teach a drill bit having a beveled distal end, and another opening through which debris from a drilling operation can exit the drill bit. But Kwan does not contemplate a beveled cutting surface comprises a slot so that debris from the drilling operation can exit easily from the slot as recited in claim 14. Kwan's beveled end is a blunt end with no slot. In fact, Kwan requires the use of a perforation away from the beveled cutting end to facilitate exists of debris. (See col. 2, lines 46-47 and figures 1E of Kwan). Kwan actually teaches away from a beveled cutting surface comprises a slot that allows for debris and fluid to exist easily. Thus, Kwan does not disclose or even suggest the elements in claim 14.

Claims 15-21 either depend directly or indirectly from claim 14 and therefore should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 14. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection.

Request For Allowance

Claims 14-24 are pending in this application. The applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
RUTAN & TUCKER

By 
Mei Tsang
Reg. No. 56122

Rutan & Tucker, LLP
611 Anton Blvd., 14th Floor
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-1931
Telephone (714) 641-5100
Fax (714) 546-9035